

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS20746

This proposal, The Idaho Video Service Act, establishes a process for the issuance of a state franchise which will facilitate the entry of new providers of video service into Idaho's video service market and encourage new private capital investment in broadband infrastructure within the state of Idaho. It is intended as a tool to enhance the state's economic development, further technological growth, and create meaningful employment opportunities for our citizens. The Idaho Video Service Act will simplify the past franchise process, resulting from federal laws adopted more than 15 years ago, and will more easily enable and encourage multi-state providers of video service to access and provide communication services to Idaho citizens. The Act is designed to provide for equality of treatment and technological neutrality between incumbent cable service providers and new video service providers.

The Act preserves state and local control and regulation of the use and maintenance of the state and local government public rights-of-way by the video service provider. It continues the right of cities and counties to receive revenues to compensate for the use of the public rights-of-way by existing and new video service providers. The Act further recognizes and continues the opportunity for the state's citizens to receive the benefit of dedicated video channels for public, educational and governmental use, as may be requested on their behalf by the states' city and county governments.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no negative fiscal impact. The purpose of the Act is to encourage economic development through private investment in the state's technological infrastructure and to provide the opportunity for increased employment that may result from this effort. A positive fiscal impact is the anticipated result of this legislation.

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